

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 25-30, 33 and 63-66 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 25-30, 33 and 63-66 stand rejected by the Examiner.
- Claims 25, 63 and 66 are amended by Applicants.

Claim Rejection Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 63 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner suggests that the claims fails to yield a useful result. The Examiner notes that there are no limitations recited for specifying the nature of the expander.

Applicants have amended Claim 63 to recite that the useful purpose of the method is to identify a development resource associated with the expanded keywords. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 63 to recite that keyword expanders are software components for processing keywords.

Inasmuch as Applicants have clarified the usefulness of the invention and the nature of the keyword expanders, Applicants deem the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection to be traversed and corresponding reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejection Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as his invention. Specifically, Claims 25 stands rejected as being incomplete for omitting a structural cooperative relationship of elements. Specifically, the Examiner notes an absence of an application or purpose for which a keyword is used or needed. Additionally, dependent Claims 26-30 are likewise rejected for being dependent on a rejected base claim.

In an earnest effort to clarify Claim 25 and overcome the present rejection, Applicants have amended the claim to recite the purpose or application to which the keywords are applied. The purpose of the keywords is to identify a resource that performs a software development function. Applicants also amend Claim 25 to clarify that the interface for

communicating with the plurality of service providers is different than the interface to a keyword processing system.

Applicants submit that amended Claim 25 overcomes the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection for indefiniteness by clarifying the distinction between the interfaces and the purpose of the keywords. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph rejection for independent Claim 25 and dependent Claims 26-30.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 25-30, 33 and 63-66 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,027 to Underwood in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,216,140 to Kramer and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,710,310 to Sugiura et al.

Amended Claims 25 recites that a client comprises, among other things, an instance of an API to communicate with software development providers having similar instances of the API and that the client can access resources of the software service providers for development services identified by the keywords.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Underwood nor Kramer nor Sugiura et al. teach or suggest, alone or in combination all the elements of Claim 25. Specifically, the references, alone or in combination, fail to specifically teach or suggest that a client communicates with a number of software development service providers using an application programming interface at the client and uses the same application programming interface at the software service providers so that the client can identify resources, using keywords, of the software service providers for software development services. Consequently, neither Underwood nor Kramer nor Sugiura et al., either alone or in combination, can render independent Claim 25 obvious. Amended Claim 25 thus patentably defines over the cited art. Similarly, dependent Claims 26-30 and 33, relying on independent Claim 25, are also rendered non-obvious and patentably define over the cited art.

Amended Claim 63 recites a method for expanding keywords as part of developing software to identify a software development provider resource associated with the expanded keywords. The method comprises, among other things, receiving a request for keyword expansion wherein an expansion permits search of software development provider resources

which perform software development functions and receiving a parameter specifying one of a plurality of keyword domains, each domain associated with one of the software development provider resources.

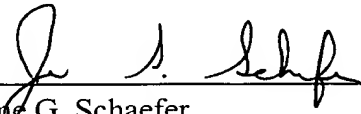
Applicants respectfully submit that neither Underwood nor Kramer nor Sugiura et al. teach or suggest, alone or in combination all the elements of Claim 63. Specifically, the references, alone or in combination, fail to specifically teach or suggest a method of expanding keywords to identify a software development provider resource comprising the limitation of receiving a parameter specifying one of a plurality of keyword domains where each domain is associated with one of the software development provider resources. Consequently, neither Underwood nor Kramer nor Sugiura et al., either alone or in combination, can render independent Claim 63 obvious. Amended Claim 63 thus patentably defines over the cited art. Similarly, dependent Claims 64 and 65, relying on independent Claim 63, are also rendered non-obvious and patentably define over the cited art.

Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 66 patentably defines over the cited art because the amendments reflect those of amended Claim 63.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the current amendments to pending claims 25, 63 and 66 place all pending claims in a condition for allowance. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

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Jerome G. Schaefer
Registration No. 50.800

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439